

SECRET



**Foreign Broadcast
Information Service**

NEWSLETTER

Editor 87-2

2 March 1987

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NOTICE

Field Bureaus are reminded that copies of this Newsletter should be destroyed after reading by U.S. Staff employees. This Newsletter is not to be retained in field bureaus.

NEWSLETTER

2 March 1987

LONDON-HEADQUARTERS INTERNET OPERATIONS BEGIN

INTERNET operations were inaugurated on 12 January with the live satellite transmission from London Bureau of Moscow's 1530 GMT "Vremya" newscast. At the London end, the bureau's INTERNET terminal began operation after a champagne, ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the bureau chief. Tripoli's 2000 GMT main evening newscast was added to live coverage on 20 January, and the system has also been used to satisfy a number of ad hoc consumer requests for TV programs, both live and on a delayed basis. As an interim measure, all programs are being taken by the Langley dish and fed directly into the OIR television grid. As soon as the link between [] and Langley is completed, slated now for April, INTERNET feeds will utilize that link, eliminating the present scheduling conflicts between INTERNET needs and the Langley dish's own coverage schedule. []

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To prevent any possible proprietary/publicity problems with INTERNET transmissions, which are viewable by anyone with an appropriate satellite dish, efforts are underway to scramble INTERNET signals. Once that is achieved, BBC and ITV newscasts will be added to London Bureau's transmission schedule. []

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Formal frequency allocation approval has still not been received from the Panamanian Government for INTERNET operations, but the situation now looks promising. Once approval is received, Panama Bureau will add Latin American TV coverage (Argentina, Chile, Mexico) to the INTERNET schedule. []

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AUTOMATED PROCESSING OF DOMESTIC TRAVEL VOUCHERS

Effective this month, FBIS domestic travelers may take advantage of a fast and efficient new system for processing domestic travel accountings that eliminates the need for the traveler to prepare a travel voucher. Budget and Financial Branch, Administrative Staff, has begun using a new travel voucher program that is fully automated and capable of processing a complete domestic accounting in a matter of minutes. Returned travelers can arrange for a 5-minute appointment and their travel voucher will be processed immediately and settled the same day. []

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GOVERNMENT ISSUES NEW POLICY ON SMOKING

New Organizational policy on smoking went into effect on 9 February. Other U.S. Government agencies are implementing similar rules. The regulation states that all work spaces are designated nonsmoking areas unless specifically excepted. As in the previous policy, smoking is prohibited in auditoriums, classrooms, conference rooms, elevators, shuttle vehicles, libraries, medical facilities, and areas with flammable materials. In addition, smoking is now prohibited in corridors, lobbies, restrooms, or general office space unless authorized by the Occupational Safety and Health Committee. Authorized areas are to be clearly marked with "Smoking Area" signs. Individuals may elect to designate their private, individual offices as smoking areas. However, no shared office space may be designated for smoking without committee approval.

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In Key Building, FBIS management has identified the following public areas as designated smoking areas:

Second Floor

East End of second floor corridor

Third Floor

East end of hall corridor

Mens room

Rooms 303B and 312A, when not in use as conference rooms

Fourth Floor

Rooms 400 and 403B, when not in use as conference rooms

Ladies room

Tenth Floor

Ladies Room

All FBIS floors

West stairwell

Individuals with private offices may designate their offices as smoking areas provided: (1) the office ventilation and configuration effectively prevent the smoke from directly entering nonsmoking areas, and (2) the office is appropriately marked with a "Smoking Area" sign. All Organization cafeterias will have areas identified for smoking.

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The medical office estimates that approximately 30 percent of Organization personnel are smokers. Thus the new policy inconveniences a minority of employees to protect the health of the majority. The Organization's goal is not to disadvantage smokers but to protect the health of nonsmokers. [redacted]

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AIDS TESTING FOR APPLICANTS, EMPLOYEES, AND DEPENDENTS

The medical office has begun testing Organization applicants and certain employees and dependents for infection by the AIDS virus. It is estimated that approximately 35 percent of persons infected with the virus will develop the full disease. Many of those infected with AIDS virus exhibit no symptoms or minor symptoms which are not readily apparent. Beginning this year, the Organization will include AIDS testing as a standard part of the medical examinations given to applicants, employees, and dependents over 18. A two-stage AIDS screening test will be applied to the blood samples taken during routine medical examinations. These tests have proven effective in identifying individuals who are infected with the AIDS virus and they are widely used in screening blood donations. The State Department has already adopted a similar AIDS screening program for Foreign Service personnel and dependents. [redacted]

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This testing will occur as a part of routine medical examinations. The medical office will perform AIDS screening on the blood samples of all applicants, employees, and dependents when they receive their routine medical examination. No additional AIDS testing is planned. Applicants testing positive for AIDS virus will be disqualified from employment. If an employee or dependent tests positively, this condition will be considered a basis for appropriately limiting overseas assignability. Under the Privacy Act, test results will be preserved in the same confidential manner as other medical information. [redacted]

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"It's six o'clock, Family Network time.
And now, here's Mom with the news."

PREPARATIONS FOR RESTON MOVE

FBIS Administrative Staff has issued the first "Reston Move Newsletter," which it envisions as a biweekly note highlighting and updating progress concerning the planned move. The newsletter is being circulated within Headquarters components. It reports that Admin, in coordination with the groups, is establishing a schedule for personnel relocation to Reston. The plan is to occupy the building in three phases, starting with the third floor and working down to the first. The present thinking is to move the first office to Reston in mid-July. The Hitt Construction Co. has been awarded the contract for renovation of the interior and started electrical work on the third floor on 12 February. Double-shift work started on 16 February, with the first old interior wall scheduled to fall that week. [REDACTED]

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The first FBIS employee is already in place at Reston. A new-hire FBIS secretary started work for the Reston Project Officer on 2 February. She is responsible for the day-to-day running of the project office. [REDACTED]

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Central Travel Services/OP plans to open a "mini-CTS" at the Reston site. [REDACTED]

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REQUESTS FOR HELP IN IRAN ARMS SALE PROBE

FBIS received its first request for assistance from the Presidential Review Board (the Tower Commission) in late January, when a commission staffer sought a copy of Iranian Majlis Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani's 4 November 1986 speech on the McFarlane visit to Tehran. LRB was able to retrieve a copy from the Daily Report and provide it to the caller, but her other request, for "texts of all Iranian leader speeches on the anniversary of the revolution, September 1985," turned out to be untraceable, as available records showed no Iranian observations of any anniversary during the date cited and no speeches by leaders during that time period. []

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In a memorandum for all employees circulated in early January, the ADCI announced establishment of a centralized Review Staff, headed by the deputy inspector general, to respond to all official inquiries, obtain and keep track of all related documents, coordinate the appearance of witnesses for non-Congressional appearances, and take responsibility for the day-to-day management of all aspects of supporting the external investigations into the Iran arms sale revelations. []

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RETIREMENT DATA SOFTWARE READIED

In preparation for the July-December 1987 Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) transfer open season, the personnel office now has available software which may be used on IBM PC's and which will assist Organization employees in making decisions affecting their retirement coverage. The software will enable employees to enter their own individual career data and obtain their estimated annuities under the current retirement systems and under the new FERS Special Category. It will also help employees compare how contributing different percentages of their salary to the Thrift Plan will impact on their eventual retirement income. []

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FROM THE FIELD BUREAUS

Hong Kong Bureau was awarded a Meritorious Unit Citation for its performance September 1985-April 1986 in providing coverage of the Philippines prior to, during, and following the "peaceful revolution" there. FBIS Director [] in Hong Kong at the time, made the presentation at a bureau party. Also recognized were six bureau employees--chief monitor [] Philippine monitors [] and [] and associate editors [] and [] [] Each received a cash award. This was the bureau's first unit citation. []

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Okinawa Bureau's motor pool at Kadena Airbase was taken over by Air Force Security Police on 5 December, when police decided to use the FBIS facilities as an operations base in a mock hostage incident created by Air Force inspectors at the 313th Air Division Headquarters just across the main road. The street was blocked and several hundred airmen took over the FBIS motor pool office, kitchen, and community room to deal with "gunmen" holding hostages at 313th, including the base commander. []

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The bureau held a party in December to mark 35 years of service by associate editor []

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During the Vietnamese Communist Party Congress coverage by Bangkok Bureau, the 901,920 publishable words filed during December easily broke the previous record set in March 1985. Although this was a record in wordage, the bureau never experienced a teletype backlog. The expanded use of personal computers by monitors and editors in recent months raised significantly the amount of material that did not require rekeying. Some 51 percent of the publishable wordage for December was processed on PC's. Out of 1,625 publishable items filed, 735 were done on PC's. The bureau quickly praised the benefits of even partial modernization. []

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Construction at the new Nicosia Bureau site continued to draw comment in the local communist party paper, and this, combined with Embassy-supplied information about a new terrorist plan to target a U.S. facility in Cyprus, prompted the bureau to arrange for watchmen at the site at night and over weekends. Two watchmen are on duty each shift, and the Cyprus police have increased roving patrols in the vicinity of the new building as it nears completion. []

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On the evening of 8 January bureau personnel alerted the Embassy's Marine guards to intensive police activity outside the building on Markarios Avenue. After contacting the police, the Marines advised that a suspected bomb had been found in front of a travel agency just down the street. Later, on receipt of a Radio Monte Carlo report filed by Jordan Bureau to the effect that a "large explosion" had taken place near the U.S. Embassy in Nicosia and that "no information about casualties" was available, the bureau telephoned the wire to offer assurances that all hands were safe. []

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Swaziland Bureau also received a Meritorious Unit Citation for its sustained superior performance from early 1985 to mid-1986 in reporting on developments in South Africa. []

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Chief monitor [] Abidjan Bureau, retired in December after 22 years' service with FBIS first at Kaduna and later at Abidjan. In a ceremony at the bureau, he was presented the FBIS Career Medal and a letter from the Director, FBIS, in recognition of his outstanding service. [] returned to his home in Lome, Togo. []

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Austrian Bureau chief monitor [] retired at the end of December after more than 35 years with FBIS. A formal dinner party was given in his honor at a restaurant and a reception was held at the bureau, at which time a letter from the Director was read and a 19th Century print of his favorite city -- Venice -- was given him by the office staff. []

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London Bureau received congratulations in December from Headquarters on the bureau's 45th anniversary. []

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As part of an extensive orientation and briefing program actively promoted by London Bureau and BBC Monitoring Service management, a BBC trainee duty supervisor received a full-day briefing on bureau editorial operations. As part of the program, all new BBC monitors receive a bureau briefing by the chief editor. In return, the Monitoring Service briefs all new FBIS staff and associate editors. []

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Key West Bureau lost a deputy chief and long-time fixture in December when [] retired after 17 years with FBIS and prior service with other components. [] will live in Lauderhill, Florida. []

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The bureau's chief teletypist, [] died of a heart attack in January. [] joined the bureau in the early seventies after retiring from a career with the Navy. []

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In an effort to upgrade bureau security, all Panama Bureau employees have been issued U.S. Embassy badges. They allow local personnel access to Embassy buildings as well as to the bureau compound. ID checks at the bureau compound began the second week in February. []

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Paraguay Bureau has been passing monitored criticism of U.S. Ambassador Taylor by government officials and sectors of the media to him on a regular basis. The ambassador several times has expressed his appreciation for this service privately and at Embassy staff meetings. In January the ambassador and two USIS officers visited the bureau to view a televised statement by the Paraguayan interior minister and an interview with the education minister, both attacking the ambassador. []

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ACTIVITIES MARK BICENTENNIAL OF CONSTITUTION

Several events are already under way within the Organization to mark the bicentennial this year of the signing of the U.S. Constitution:

1. Commemorative copies of the Constitution with an introductory message from the Director have been made available through supply rooms.
2. Plans are nearly complete for an Organization-wide guest speaker program in which distinguished Constitutional scholars will share their thoughts with personnel of the Organization.
3. The Fine Arts Committee is planning a special display to be exhibited in observation of the bicentennial.
4. A special edition of Studies in Intelligence will be devoted to the Constitution and Intelligence. []

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PRODUCTION GROUP DEVELOPMENTS

Embassy Moscow's new Press Procurement Office (PPO) chief, []
[] briefed UD officers on the status of the book program following the recent Soviet retaliatory measures against U.S. diplomats. He explained steps being taken at the PPO to restore operations to normal. [] a member of UD prior to transferring to State, was brought up to date at the same time on UD's current publications procurement needs. []

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[] attended by invitation a ceremony on 27 January at State at which Secretary Shultz and Mongolian Ambassador to the United Nations Nyamdoo signed a memorandum establishing diplomatic relations between their countries. Prior to the ceremony [] was a guest at a luncheon hosted by the assistant secretary of state for East Asia in honor of Ambassador Nyamdoo. [] had just finished, at State's request, comparisons of three Mongolian versions of the above memorandum and the U.S.-Mongolian joint communique with the official English equivalents and found some omissions and linguistic discrepancies. [] discussed the matter with the Mongolian second secretary during a conference call with State and worked out the differences. []

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JPRS published the unrestricted version of the first issue in the retitled series Europe/Latin America Report: Science and Technology on 18 December. The FOUO version was published on 16 December. The report combines the Europe Report: Science and Technology and the "Science and Technology" material previously published in the Latin America Report.
[redacted]

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Consolidation of the China reports became effective on 2 January. This includes issuing material from the Agriculture and Plant and Installation Data reports in other publications and issuing Red Flag as a subtitled report of the Political, Sociological, and Military Affairs Report. [redacted]

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Charlie Sheen and Keith David in a scene from Oliver North's Vietnam movie, "Platoon."

--Photo caption in the
Washington Post

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